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SOCIAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Draft resolution recommended by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-second session for adoption by the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council

At its 5th meeting, on 13 March 1998, the Commission on the Status of Women, acting as the Preparatory Committee for the High-level Review in the Year 2000 of the Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the Beijing Platform for Action, which is to be held by the General Assembly, recommended a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implenentation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action" for adoption by the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 1998/203, the text of the draft resolution is reproduced below for action by the Council.

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions, in particular resolution 52/100 of 12 December 1997, on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, and agreed conclusions and relevant resolutions of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council on the follow-up to the Conference,

"Reaffirming the commitments made in the Beijing Declaration[1] and Platform for Action,[2]

"1. Decides that the high-level plenary review to appraise and assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women[3] and the Beijing Platform for Action, five years after its adoption, and to consider further actions and initiatives, should be held as a special session of the General Assembly for five days, from 5 to 9 June 2000;

"2. Decides that the special session should reaffirm the commitment to the Beijing Platform for Action and further focus, inter alia, on obstacles encountered in implementation, as well as on strategies to overcome those obstacles, with a view to fully implementing the Platform, as well as to taking further action and initiatives;

"3. Recalls that, in keeping with General Assembly resolution 52/100, the Commission on the Status of Women will serve as the preparatory committee for the review and will be open-ended for the purposes of the preparations;

"4. Decides that the preparatory work, which should be supported by inter-sessional consultations convened by the open-ended Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women as needed, will be carried out by the Commission at its forty-third and forty-fourth sessions in the years 1999 and 2000, respectively, and that the forty-third and forty-fourth sessions will be extended by five days each to complete the preparations;

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[1] Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

"5. Calls upon the Secretary-General in collaboration with the regional commissions to develop a standardized questionnaire with a focused set of indicators on all critical areas of concern as a framework to assist national Governments in their assessment of and reporting on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

"6. Encourages Governments, especially those that have not yet done so, to submit their national plans of action to the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat by September 1998 as an input to the start of the review during the forty-third session of the Commission and, in 1999, to submit information on their implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, focusing particularly on positive actions, lessons learned, obstacles, key challenges remaining and a vision for gender equality in the next millennium;

"7. Invites Governments to prepare their national evaluations on the implementation of the Platform for Action with the involvement of civil society;

"8. Requests the Secretary-General to invite all entities of the United Nations system, including the specialized agencies, funds and programmes, to be actively involved in preparatory activities and to participate at the highest level in the special session, including through presentations on best practices, obstacles encountered and a vision for the future to accelerate implementation and address new and emerging trends;

"9. Encourages appropriate regional preparatory activities for the special session, inter alia, by Governments in cooperation with the regional commissions, and recommends submission of the results as an input to the Commission at its forty-fourth session, in the year 2000;

"10. Invites the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its forty-third session, in addition to the documentation already foreseen in the long-term work programme of the Commission for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, suggestions on further initiatives and actions that might be considered during the review, with attention to mainstreaming gender equality and to common trends and themes across the twelve critical areas of concern;

"11. Requests the Secretary-General to provide in the report on emerging issues to be submitted to the Commission at its forty-fourth session, additional material on further actions and initiatives for the preparation of the outlook beyond the year 2000;

"12. Invites the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to provide information in 1999 on implementation of the Platform for Action, based on its review of reports of States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;[4]

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[4] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

"13. Invites the Secretary-General to integrate in his reports information from relevant treaty-monitoring bodies, within their mandates, on their efforts to mainstream a gender perspective;

"14. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its special session a comparative report on how different categories of projects and programmes of United Nations organizations including women's interests and gender mainstreaming issues and on resources allocated in this regard;

"15. Recommends that the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank focus on gender issues in the Human Development Report and the World Development Report for the year 2000;

"16. Requests the Secretary-General to provide by the end of 1999 a compilation of updated statistics and indicators on the situation of women and girls in countries around the world by issuing, for example, a volume of The World's Women;

"17. Calls upon States, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations to undertake necessary measures with a view to providing appropriate information to the public on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the process of preparations for the special session of the General Assembly;

"18. Emphasizes the important role of non-governmental organizations in implementing the Platform for Action and the need for their active involvement in preparations for the special session as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements for their contributions to the special session;

"19. Requests the Secretary-General to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries at the special session in accordance with past practice."

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